

REMARKS

Changes to the specification

The second paragraph on page 1 has been amended to correct an obvious error of translation. This change is purely stylistic in nature and does not introduce new matter.

Lines 21-23 of page 1 have been amended to incorporate the actual claim language into the specification. This is believed to be advantageous in case the claims should be changed, to preserve the meaning of the specification.

Claim objections

Claims 2-10 have been amended to change “a” to -- the -- as requested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that this change is purely pedantic in nature and does not have any legal effect on the scope of the claims.

Rejection under section 112

Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 7 instead of claim 6. Applicant respectfully submits that this addresses the issue pointed to by the Examiner.

Art rejections

The art rejections are respectfully traversed, except as indicated below.

Since the references are many and/or complex, Applicant will confine his remarks to those portions of the references cited by the Examiner, except as otherwise indicated. Applicant makes no representation as to the contents of other portions of the references.

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Any of the Examiner's rejections and/or points of argument that are not addressed below would appear to be moot in view of the following. Nevertheless, Applicant reserves the right to respond to those rejections and arguments and to advance additional arguments at a later date. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Claim 1

There appears to be a problem here regarding the meaning of the word "selecting." Claim 1 uses the word selecting, in accordance with one of its standard meanings and in accordance with the specification and drawing, to mean that a new value, not previously determined, is selected for the linkage from a predetermined number of values.

On the other hand, the Chak reference — cited by the Examiner for this point — involves retrieving a previously selected value for the linkage, the value apparently having been selected by a human. Applicant does not understand Chak to "select" a value as that term is used in Applicant's claims & specification. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is using an inappropriate meaning for the word "selected," ignoring Applicant's specification and drawing. Applicant further respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not understand the claim this way.

Nevertheless, in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicant offers new claim 13, which includes the word "assigning" rather than "selecting," because the Chak reference does not — so far as Applicant can tell — have a means for assigning a value for the linkage. Instead, Applicant believes that the linkage value is selected or assigned by a human.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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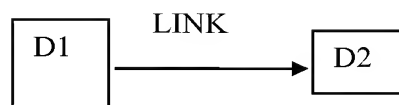
Claims 11 & 12

Claim 11 has been amended to make clear that all operations are executed in a data processing device – including assigning of the linkage type. In the Chak reference — so far as Applicant can tell — it appears that link type is assigned by a user from amongst a number of predefined types, prior to being selected during operation.

Claim 12 is analogous to claim 11.

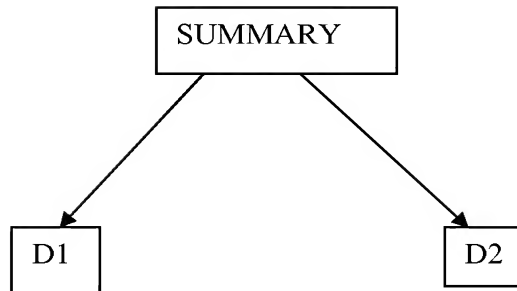
McKeown (claims 5, 6 and 8)

Against the additional limitations of these claims, the Examiner cites McKeown. Applicant respectfully submits that McKeown deals with an incompatible approach for organizing documents. Instead of creating a link from one related document to another, it appears that this reference, so far as Applicant can tell, creates a summary document with links to related documents. Applicant's invention may be schematically illustrated as follows:



On the other hand, when considered schematically, McKeown would look more like this:

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Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the type of search proposed by McKeown cannot be combined with the other references as the Examiner has done; and, moreover, that the search conducted by McKeown would not be related to the type of link claimed by Applicant.

Please charge any fees other than the issue fee to deposit account 14-1270. Please credit any overpayments to the same account.

Applicant respectfully submit that he has addressed each issue raised by the Examiner — except for any that were skipped as moot — and that the application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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